Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

1. A.—(1) The appointments referred to in this part of the question are those made under His Highness the Maha Raja's Sign Manual The appointments so made now are those of the Dewan and the Chief Justice and their emoluments will be found entered in the Quarterly Civil List.

(2) Rules will issue in due course.

Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai.

2. Q.—Will the Government kindly state what amount is expected under income-tax from each of the municipal areas in the State and what from the rest of the State ?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

2. A.—It is not possible to furnish the information at present.

Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai.

3. Q.—Will the Government kindly read the Malayalam article published in the *Samadarsi* of the 8th October 1921 under the heading "Mr. Raghaviah's Government and Christians" and be pleased to make a statement in regard to the allegations made in paragraphs 2 and 3 thereof, and state particularly—

(1) whether the *thadivila* of the Government land referred to was once fixed at Rs. 1,50,000 and, if not, at what amount it was originally fixed;

(2) whether it has been subsequently reduced or is proposed to be reduced and, if so, to what amount;

(3) whether any trees had been cut on the land without the permission of Government, and, if so, by whom, and why the trees were so allowed to be cut; and

(4) whether the Government have taken or are taking any action to realise the value of the trees so cut and, if so, what that action and its result are?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

3. A.—Government have perused the article referred to. The matter is still under the consideration of Government. When final orders are passed, a statement dealing *inter alia* with the points raised in the interpellation will be made.

Mr. S. Adam Sait.

4. Q.—(*a*) What is the profit per maund of salt derived from the purchase and sale of Bombay salt by the Government?

(*b*) What is the estimated profit derived by Government per maund of salt on account of the sale of Tinnevelly salt during the last three years?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to supply information on the following points:—

(i) What was the stock of salt remaining at the Quilon and Alleppey Depôts when tenders were invited for the supply of 4½ lakhs of maunds of Tinnevelly salt during the second half of 1097, *viz.*, between the 1st Vrischikam 1097 and the 31st Medam 1097?

(ii) Is it a fact that when the aforesaid tenders were called for, the licensees of the South Travancore factories possessed in stock salt ready for sale to the extent of eight lakhs of maunds?

(iii) What is the quantity of salt required for consumption in the State per year on an average for the last 3 years?

(iv) Did the Excise Commissioner ascertain the existence of the above-mentioned stock of salt before arranging for the import of such a large quantity of foreign salt?

(v) Did the Excise Commissioner take into consideration the probable yield of salt of the Purattasi pani and Thye pani of 1097, when he invited tenders for the supply of foreign salt?

(*d*) What are the rates at which the Government have given the contract for the supply of Tinnevelly and Bombay salt respectively, at Trivandrum, Quilon and Alleppey?

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

4. A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The average profit derived by Government from the purchase and sale of Bombay salt during 1096 was annas 9 and pies 4 per maund and the average estimated pro-

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fit per maund for the last three years on account of the sale of Tinnevelly salt was annas 3 and pies 6 per maund. The above figures do not exclude the cost incurred by the State on account of establishment and supervision charges, the loss due to wastage, etc.

(c) (i) The stock of salt in the Alleppey and Quilon Depôts at the time of calling for tenders for the current contract was 2,04,531 maunds and 2,65,953 maunds respectively.

(ii) The stock of salt available in the factories in South Travancore at the time of calling for these tenders was 4,44,643 maunds and not 8 lakhs as stated by the member.

(iii) The average consumption of salt in the State per year based on the figures of the past three years is 10,81,518 maunds.

(iv) The stock of salt available in the depôts and the factories was duly taken into consideration in deciding upon the quantities of foreign salt fixed for import into the State. It may be added that provision is usually made for keeping a reserve stock of salt equal to the requirements of the State for 18 months.

(v) The probable yield of the Purattasi pani of 1097 was taken into consideration in estimating the quantities of foreign salt required. The probable yield of Thye pani was not taken into account, as that salt would not be ripe for transport during the year.

(d) The contract rates for 1097 are given below :—

(1) For supply of Bombay salt at Alleppey—Bh. Rs. 58 per 100 maunds.

(2) For supply of Tinnevelly salt at Alleppey— Bh. Re 0-10-7 5/7 pies per maund.

(3) For supply of Tinnevelly salt at Quilon—Bh. Re. 0-8-3 pies per maund.

Mr. S. Adam Sait.

5. Q.—(a) How many head clerks, clerks and overseers are there under the Trivandrum Municipality? How many among them possess the requisite qualifications prescribed in the Public Service Notification?

(b) What proportion of the total receipts of this Municipality, exclusive of Government grant, is being spent on account of salaries, allowances and establishment?

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

5. A.—(a) The clerical staff in the Trivandrum Municipal and Health Offices consists of one clerk on Rs. 30, 3 on Rs. 20 each, 3 on Rs. 15 each, and one on Rs. 10. There are ten overseers on Rs. 10 each, and 15 on Rs. 9 each. Of the clerks four possess the examination qualification prescribed by the Public Service Notification. No overseer holds the qualification prescribed by the Public Service Notification for overseers.

(b) The receipts for 1096, exclusive of Government grant, amounted to Rs. 53,275-7-10. The total expenditure under salaries, establishment and allowances was Rs. 22,437-14-9, being 42 per cent. of the above receipts.

Mr. S. Adam Sait.

6. Q.- (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what action, if any, they have taken with reference to the representations made to them praying for the abolition of taxation in kind in respect of the Pandaravaka properties attached to Sreepadam in the Chirayinkil taluk?

(b) Are the Government aware that representations made to Sreepadam in the above matter have not been considered, and, if so, will the Government state what action they propose to take to give relief to the ryots of the Chirayinkil taluk holding lands attached to Sreepadam as those enjoying other Pandaravaka lands?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

6. A.—(a) The following reply has been given to the representations of the ryots in question:—

"As the lands in question form the separate property of Her Highness the Senior Rani, Government cannot interfere without Her Highness' express wish and consent, and it is Her Highness that the petitioners should approach".

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.

7. Q.—(a) With reference to the statement contained in the Press Communique dated

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